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Contact: Georgia Parham, Georgia.Parham@fws.gov, 812-334-4261 x 203

Service Completes Initial Review on Petition to List Lake Sturgeon

Lake sturgeon to undergo rigorous status review

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has completed initial review of a petition to list the lake sturgeon under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Service has concluded there is substantial information to consider listing the species as threatened or endangered. The Service will begin an in-depth review of this species to determine if the fish should be listed.

Lake sturgeon is a fish that occurs across temperate zone freshwater systems of North America, from Hudson Bay and the Great Lakes, through the Mississippi River drainages. Although lake sturgeon were historically abundant throughout their range, the species has significantly declined during the past two centuries. The Service determined the petition to list the lake sturgeon presented substantial information on potential threats associated with dams and hydroelectric facilities, dredging and channelization, contaminants and habitat fragmentation, and impacts from invasive species.

The ESA allows citizens to petition the Service to add species to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, remove species from the list, and to reclassify species already on the list.

The substantial 90-day finding for lake sturgeon means the Service will add the species to the national listing workplan. Timing of the status assessment will depend on the sturgeon's placement in the workplan.

The 90-day finding will appear in the August 15, 2019, *Federal Register*. With notice of this petition finding, the Service is accepting information about the lake sturgeon that will assist in evaluating the species' status. To provide comments, go to the *Federal Register* docket number and link below on or after August 15, 2019:

| Species | Range | Docket Number | Docket link |
|---------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Lake sturgeon | AL, GA, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, NE, NY, ND, OH, PA, TN, VT, WI | FWS-R3-ES-2018-0110 | https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FWS-R3-ES-2018-0110 |

The notice for the lake sturgeon finding will be available in the *Federal Register* Reading Room on August 14, 2019, at <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection> on the 2019 Notices link under Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants.

For more information on the ESA listing process, including 90-day findings and status reviews, please go to www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/listing.pdf.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov, or connect with us through any of these social media channels: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Flickr](#), [YouTube](#).

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